

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 09404

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: WFC, IOEG, UN, MX

SUBJECT: WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - HOSTSHIP - REPRESENTA-
TION UN AGENCIES - REPORT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND
NUTRITION POLICIES

1. BANGLADESH PREP COM DELEGATE HAQUE APPROACHED DEL REP
WITH REQUEST U. S. RECONSIDER ITS CANDIDACY MAURICE
WILLIAMS. SAID LDC ARE UNITED BEHIND AHMED OF BANGLADESH.
SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ALSO SUPPORT HIM BECAUSE THEY
PREFER NOT TO SEE ONE AMERICAN REPLACED BY ANOTHER. HAQUE
SAID AHMED WOULD BE PLEASED HAVE HARRY WALTERS REMAIN AS
DEPUTY EXEC DIR AND U. S. COULD ALSO HAVE A VICE PRESI-
DENTIAL POSITION WHEN ELECTIONS OCCUR IN 1979.

2. DELEGATION REP REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF WITH-
DRAWING WILLIAMS. INDEED, OUR LATE SUBMISSION OF HIS CAN-
DIDACY AROSE PARTIALLY FROM THE FACT THAT WE HAD SURVEYED
FIELD OF CANDIDATES AND THOUGHT THAT PERSON OF GREATER EX-
PERIENCE WAS NEEDED. U. S. CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF WELL
QUALIFIED PERSONS AND SELECTED BEST OF THESE TO PUT FOR-
WARD. WILLIAMS HAS DEVOTED MOST OF LIFE TO DEVELOPMENT
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AND HAS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP CAPABILITY. HE DOES INTEND
HAVE A DEVELOPING COUNTRY DEPUTY IF SELECTED AND U. S. HAS
INDICATED THAT HE WOULD GIVE AHMED THE FULLEST CONSIDER-
ATION.

3. HAQUE SAID BANGLADESH WOULD BETRAY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
IF IT WITHDREW AHMED'S CANDIDACY. HE CRITICIZED LACK OF

BALANCE IN PRESENT SECRETARIAT BUT RECOGNIZED THAT BUREAU IS COMPOSED LARGELY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES. HE SAID PRESIDENT TANCO DOES NOT HAVE WIDE SUPPORT AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND PREDICTED THAT HE COULD NOT GAIN RE-ELECTION IN 1979. HAQUE ADMITTED THAT AHMED EXPERIENCE IS NOT AS BROAD AS WILLIAMS BUT THAT HE IS WELL KNOWN IN FAO CIRCLES AND WAS CHAIRMAN FAO FINANCE COMMITTEE. HE SAID "THE JOB MAKES THE MAN". U. S. DELEGATION REP SAID THE WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION REQUIRES A PERSON WITH OUTSTANDING ABILITY AND WE ALREADY HAVE HEARD TOO MUCH IN ROME ABOUT CANDIDATES GROWING INTO PARTICULAR JOBS. CONVERSATION WAS AMICABLE BUT FRANK.

4. RUMOR PERSISTS HERE THAT WILLIAMS MAY APPEAR MEXICO CITY NEXT WEEK. OECD REP BELIEVES THIS IS NOT, REPEAT NOT TRUE. TANCO AND DELEGATION BELIEVE WILLIAMS VISIT HERE WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE AT THIS STAGE.

5. RE HOSTSHIP FIFTH WFC SESSION NIGERIAN DELEGATION SAYS 1979 WOULD BE BAD TIME FOR NIGERIA TO HOST COUNCIL SESSION BUT FINAL DECISION WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL MINISTERIAL DELEGATE ARRIVES SATURDAY. U. S. POSITION ON DEFERRING TO NIGERIAN WISHES WAS CONVEYED CLEARLY.

6. UN AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN PREP COM IS DISAPPOINTING. WALTON (D-2) REPRESENTS FAO. TEPLY OF UNICEF IS ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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WEARING UNDP HAT. MOSCARELLA OF WFP ARRIVED TUESDAY, AND WITH NUTRITION SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION WEDNESDAY, WHO IS NOT REPRESENTED.

7. REPORT FAO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY HAS NOT BEEN DISTRIBUTED DESPITE EARLIER FAO ASSURANCE TO U. S. THAT IT WOULD BE CIRCULATED AS WFC DOCUMENT. WALTON DEFENDED NON-DISTRIBUTION BY CLAIMING REPORT HAS NOT YET CLEARED FAO COUNCIL BUT WAS REMINDED THAT FAO COUNCIL EARLIER FORESAW SUCH EVENTUALITY AND AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION SUCH REPORTS TO WFC IN ADVANCE OF COUNCIL REVIEW. ISSUE IS BEING PURSUED FURTHER.

FOR PARIS. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY DEPARTMENT, EMBASSY MIGHT WISH CONVEY TANCO AND DELEGATION VIEW (PARA 4) TO WILLIAMS. LUCEY

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